



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL INSPECTIONS
Room 372, Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012
(213) 974-1465 or (213) 974-1431

FOUNDER
Mrs. Sybil Brand

CHAIRPERSON
Mrs. Eleanor R. Montano

VICE CHAIRPERSON
Mrs. Helen H. Stathatos

Mr. Frank S. Bacio
Mr. Vito Cannella
Ms. Rita Hall
Mr. John A. Hammargren
Mr. Carl E. Moore

MINUTES OF THE
SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL INSPECTIONS
REGULAR WEEKLY MEETING
AUGUST 30, 2006

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Montano called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

OPENING CEREMONIES

Chair Montano led the pledge of allegiance followed by a moment of silence.

ATTENDANCE

Present

Chair Eleanor R. Montano
Vice Chair Helen H. Stathatos
Frank Bacio
Vito Cannella
Rita Hall
John A. Hammargren
Carl E. Moore

Others Present

Dr. Marvin Southard, Director, Department of Mental Health
Dr. Thomas Klotz, Department of Mental Health
Mrs. Alexa Moore
Jim Corbett, Assistant Chief, Commission Services Division
Audra Galang, Commission Staff

APPROVAL OF AUGUST 16, 2006 MINUTES

On motion of Commissioner Hammargren, seconded by Commissioner Moore, and unanimously carried, the minutes of August 16, 2006 were approved.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Montano shared with the Commissioners an invitation to the Brown Act Workshop which is scheduled on Thursday, September 21, 2006, 10:00 a.m. in Room 374, Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, 500 West Temple Street, Los Angeles, CA. She stressed the importance of attending this workshop to refresh and update them on the Act. Commissioner Hall will attend.

Chair Montano welcomed Drs. Marvin Southard and Thomas Klotz of the Department of Mental Health.

PRESENTATION OF DR. MARVIN SOUTHARD OF THE DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH ON INMATES MENTAL HEALTH ISSUE

Dr. Southard gave a brief introduction and reported on Mental Health Services Act that was passed in November 2004. He stated that there are approximately 11,000 people participating in the planning process involving the increased services that will be available with the funds generated by the Act's passing.

He also reported the following:

- 2/3 of those jailed with mental health problems also have substance abuse issues as well.
- The focus of the first part of Mental Health's planning process for increased services is in the jails. The homeless population particularly in finding them stable housing. Decreasing the number of emergency psychiatric hospitalization cycles and ensuring continued to service to foster youth transitioning to emancipation.
- A significant change in care is that it is now recognized that substance abuse care needs to be hand in hand with mental health care.
- The second wave will focus on prevention and intervention with juveniles to try to at least delay their alcohol and substance abuse by allowing them a longer period of time for brain development. The juveniles' families' will be included in this process, as well.
- There are funds in the act called, Train our Partners' Funds, to assist in training nonprofit and other entities who will be providing essential psychiatric, psychological and substance abuse services support.
- At present, the Department is having difficulties in finding willing cities and neighborhoods to accept the presence of treatment facilities.

Chair Montano and the Commissioners thanked Drs. Marvin Southard and Thomas Klotz for their attendance and informative presentation.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Commissioner Bacio reported the current balance of the Commission's Charitable Fund is \$1,094.00.

STAFF REPORT

Mr. Corbett shared with the Commissioners the following:

1. Thank you letters to the representatives of the Sheriff's Department and the Superior Court were prepared for the signature of Chair Montano and about ready for mailing.
2. Mr. Corbett reported the Sybil Brand Commission's sunset review is being worked on by the Auditor-Controller.
3. The schedule of classes for ethics training for the Commissioners is not ready yet.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was none.

FACILITY/GROUP HOME INSPECTION REPORTS

Human Services Network – 58 #3

Commissioner Cannella visited this facility on August 23rd, and found it in satisfactory condition. The area of concern: fire extinguisher needs servicing.

Century Regional Detention Facility (CRDF)

Chair Montano, Vice Chair Stathatos, Commissioners Bacio, Hall, Hammargren and Moore visited this facility on August 23rd, and gave it a rating of **Excellent**. The classes on schedule are computer, job skills, painting, parenting, sewing, dance, academics and drug education. The inmates expressed that they feel safe there.

Touch a Life Foundation – 107 #1

Chair Montano and Commissioner Hammargren visited this facility on August 28th, and found it to be marginal. The areas of concern are the following: faucets are leaking and shower needs regrouting. The yard and driveway need fixing. Baseboards need painting. The kitchen hood needs cleaning and the oven was filthy. Venetian blinds and window seals need cleaning. Commissioners plan to return in 30 days.

Boy's Republic – 8 #2

Chair Montano and Commissioner Hammargren visited this facility on August 29th, and found it to be a quality place. The areas of concern are the following: no kids' clothing allowance since May, 2006. Commissioner Hammargren requested a draft letter to DCFS and Probation Department on this issue be prepared.

Hudson Lyndsey – 57 #3

Commissioner Bacio visited this facility on August 17th, and found the following areas of concern: post evacuation plan schematic and clean debris at the east side of the house. Inventory and refill first aid kit. Cactus plant needs removal as it attracts pests and rodents to the house. Repair smoke detector.

Mozell Pennington Boy's Center – 70 #2

Commissioner Bacio visited this facility on August 22nd, and found the following areas of concern: update daily activities and refill first aid kit. Damage on the door needs repair and the house needs a paint and plaster fix. Also rotate out donated canned foods.

Heritage Group Home – 53 #2

Commissioners Bacio and Hall visited this facility on August 29th, and found the following areas of concern: smoke detector inoperable and they need one more fire extinguisher. They should have an exterminator check under the sink for termites. The house has only one bathroom for six females to share.

Children Are Our Future – 12 #1, #2, #3 and #5

Vice Chair Stathatos and Commissioner Cannella visited these facilities between August 17th and 28th, and reported they are all very good facilities located in good neighborhoods.

NEW BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Montano provided inspection assignments to the Commissioners for the following week.

Vice Chair Stathatos reported on a news article dated August 29, 2006 regarding child abuse reform.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was none.

MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA (To be presented and placed on a future agenda)

There were none.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Montano adjourned the meeting at 12:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Corbett
Staff